

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-10 NEA-10

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DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /154 R

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EUR/NE - R. WOODS (DRAFT)

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EA/J - S. ECHTOR (DRAFT)

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R 031755Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, GW, UK, FR, JA, CA, NO, EEC

SUBJECT: INTERAGENCY PREPARATORY SESSION FOR 1977 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OZONE LAYER

REFERENCE: NAIROBI 9356 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. U.S. PARTICIPATED AS ONLY INVITED GOVERNMENT IN AUGUST 25-26 UN INTERAGENCY PREPARATORY SESSION TO PLAN INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON POLLUTION OF OZONE LAYER CALLED FOR BY UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL AT FOURTH SESSION. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES RESULTS OF PREPARATORY SESSION, INCLUDING AGREEMENT REACHED ON ISSUES INVOLVING OBJECTIVES OF AND GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETING NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 8-16, 1977 IN WASHINGTON. IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS IN ACTION POSTS (WHOSE GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTED UNEP RESOLUTION) ARE AWARE THAT PREPARATORY SESSION WAS HELD AND THE OUTCOME, AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPRESS ANY VIEWS DIRECTLY TO UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PARTICULARLY ON KEY ISSUES DESCRIBED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. USG OFFICIALS (A. BESTUL, NOAA; B. LONG, STATE DEPARTMENT/WASHINGTON; G. CARTWRIGHT, US MISSION/GENEVA) PARTICIPATED IN AUGUST 25-26 INTERAGENCY PREPARATORY SESSION CONVENED BY UNEP AND HELD AT WMO HEADQUARTERS TO PLAN

FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN 1977 ON SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF POTENTIAL DEPLETION OF OZONE LAYER AND RESULTANT IMPACT ON MAN AND HIS ENVIRONMENT. SESSION CHAIRED BY H.P. MOLLENHAUER (UNEP) AND GANTI RAO (UNEP) SERVED AS SECRETARY. OTHER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED: WMO (R.D. BOJKOV); WHO (B. DIETERICH, H.W. DE KONING); UN/ESA (H. EINHAUS); FAO (H.J.R. WIDMER); ECE (A. BISHOP, J. JANCZAK); UNESCO/MAB (H.L. TELLER); ICAO (W. NEMEREVEVER); ICSU/SCOPE (T. MUNN, D. VINCE-PRUE); OECD (J.F. THOMAS); UNEP/GENEVA (P. THACHER, C.C. WALLEN).
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2. MEETING WAS CALLED BY UNEP TO FOLLOW UP ON GC-IV DECISION (65) WHICH REQUESTED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO "CONVENE A MEETING OF APPROPRIATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THE OZONE LAYER, IDENTIFY RELATED ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS, AND AGREE ON A DIVISION OF LABOR AND A COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR, INTER ALIA, THE

COMPILATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS AND THE COLLECTION OF RELATED INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION, AND TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS FIFTH SESSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING."

3. U.S. WAS ONLY GOVERNMENT INVITED TO MEETING, AND THIS STEMMED FROM FACT THAT WE HAD OFFERED TO HOST OZONE CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AS "OBSERVER," U.S. DELEGATION PLAYED VERY ACTIVE ROLE IN DELIBERATIONS SINCE INITIAL VIEW OF AGENCIES WAS TO ESTABLISH OZONE CONFERENCE AS "INTERAGENCY CONSULTATIVE MEETING" WITH COUNTRY INPUTS BEING RESTRICTED TO THOSE OF "EXPERTS" FROM (UNSPECIFIED) GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHOM UN AGENCIES COULD INVITE TO THE CONFERENCE. U.S. VIEWED THIS AS UNACCEPTABLE SINCE WE BELIEVE INTENDED PURPOSE OF UNEP RESOLUTION (WHICH U.S. HAD STRONGLY SUPPORTED) WAS TO PROVIDE A GENERAL FORUM FOR ALL COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE ACTIVELY WORKING ON OZONE LAYER PROBLEM TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS AND PLANS, AGREE ON NEXT STEPS, AND WORK OUT DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY WHICH MIGHT REDUCE POTENTIAL FOR UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION. AMBIGUITY OF RESOLUTION LANGUAGE WITH RESPECT TO INTENDED PARTICIPATION (I.E., WHETHER MEETING WAS TO BE "INTERGOVERNMENTAL" IN FORMAL SENSE) WAS STUMBLING BLOCK. SOME AGENCY REPS CONCERNED THAT UNEP CANNOT INVITE COUNTRIES SELECTIVELY, AND ALTERNATIVE OF ISSUING GENERAL INVITATION WOULD SWELL MEETING TO UNACCEPTABLE SIZE. U.S. MAINTAINED THAT CAREFULLY WORDED GENERAL INVITATION REQUESTING 1-2 REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTRIES ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN OZONE LAYER RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WOULD ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE LIMITING

CRITERIA FOR ATTENDANCE. FINAL DECISION WAS TO RECOMMEND UNCLASSIFIED

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TO UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THAT HE CONSIDER SENDING SUCH AN APPROPRIATELY WORDED INVITATION TO ALL COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO UN AGENCIES AND REGIONAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH RELEVANT ONGOING OR PLANNED ACTIVITIES (E.G., WMO, WHO, UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO, ICAO, ECE, OECD, ICSU). INVITATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS WOULD REQUEST THAT THEY DESIGNATE EXPERT(S) FAMILIAR WITH FULL SCOPE OF NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND WHO CAN INDICATE WHETHER COUNTRIES MAY BE IN POSITION TO UNDERTAKE NEW WORK IN PRIORITY AREAS TO BE AGREED AT THE MEETING. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION WOULD BE SOUGHT BY INVITATIONS TO SEVERAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS WHICH ARE SPONSORING RESEARCH PROGRAMS, AND EXTENDED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

4. U.S. ALSO OPPOSED (SUCCESSFULLY) PROPOSAL BY SESSION

CHAIRMAN THAT AGENCIES PREPARE AS CONFERENCE INPUT, WITH UNEP FINANCIAL SUPPORT, BACKGROUND PAPERS WHICH WOULD BE LARGELY REVIEW OF STATUS OF KNOWLEDGE OF OZONE PROBLEM. U.S. DELEGATION POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS PRECISELY THE TYPE OF SITUATION CONFERENCE IS INTENDED TO PREVENT, I.E., DUPLICATION OF EFFORT WHICH, IN THIS CASE, INVOLVES FACT THAT THERE IS ALREADY VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTATION ON NATURE OF OZONE PROBLEM. RATHER, PAPERS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO DESCRIPTION OF EACH AGENCY'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS IN AREA; FURTHER, SIMILAR STATEMENTS SHOULD BE REQUESTED OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

5. PREPARATORY SESSION AGREED THAT: (A) FUTURE REFERENCES SHOULD BE TO A INTERNATIONAL "MEETING" ON THE OZONE LAYER, RATHER THAN TO "CONFERENCE"; (B) MEETING WILL BE FOCUSED ON SPECTRUM OF POTENTIAL POLLUTANTS OF THE "OZONE LAYER" AND THEIR BIOLOGICAL AND CLIMATIC EFFECTS, RATHER THAN ON "STRATOSPHERIC" POLLUTION MORE BROADLY DEFINED; (C) MEETING WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., TENTATIVELY FROM FEBRUARY 8-16, 1977; (D) INVITATIONS WILL BE EXTENDED BOTH TO GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA. 3 ABOVE; (E) NUMBER OF WORKING LANGUAGES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; AND (F) MEETING AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF RISK TO OZONE LAYER AND POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON MANKIND BASED ON UNEP UNCLASSIFIED

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OVERVIEW PAPER; A REVIEW OF ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS; AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRIORITY UNMET RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS NEEDS, WORKLOAD DISTRIBUTION, AND A COORDINATION MECHANISM.

6. REFTEL RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 1 INDICATES UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLANS TO EXTEND INVITATION TO ALL GOVERNMENTS TO NOMINATE EXPERTS TO ATTEND WASHINGTON MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDATION OF PREPARATORY GROUP. EX DIR BELIEVES U.S. SHOULD BE READY TO HOST MEETING OF UP TO 150 PARTICIPANTS AND PLAN FOR INTERPRETATION IN FIVE LANGUAGES.

7. ACTION POSTS: RESULTS OF AUGUST 25-26 PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT U.S. HAS TAKEN STRONG POSITION THAT FEBRUARY 1977 MEETING MUST INVOLVE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS SINCE BULK OF WORK TO DATE IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT AT NATIONAL LEVEL. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE URGED TO CONVEY PROMPTLY TO UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANY VIEWS ON SCOPE,

CONTENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF MEETING.

8. FOR NAIROBI: WE WILL REPLY TO REFTEL IN SEPARATE
MESSAGE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. ROBINSON

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